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AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
FOR DEVELOPMENT

Family farming in a changing landscape:
How activities change when forest disappears

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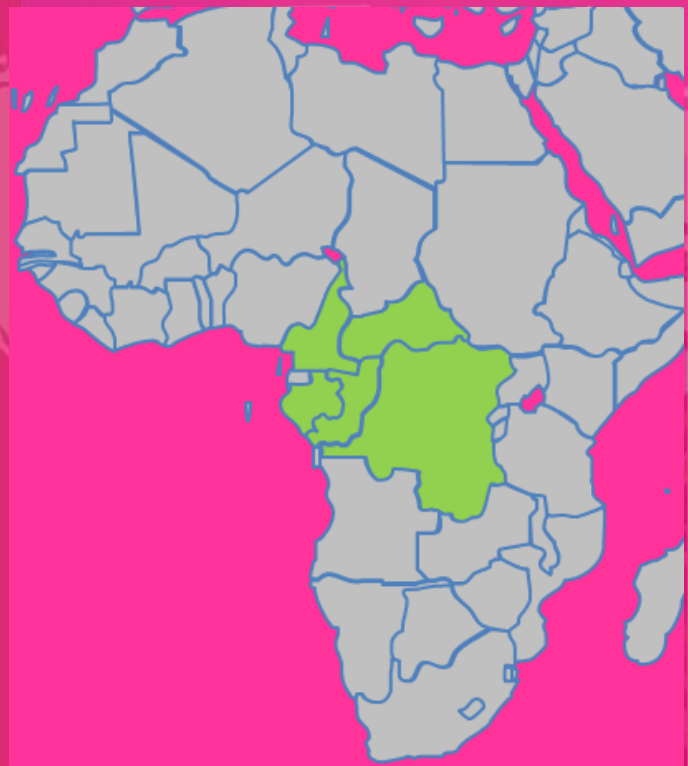
CoForTips

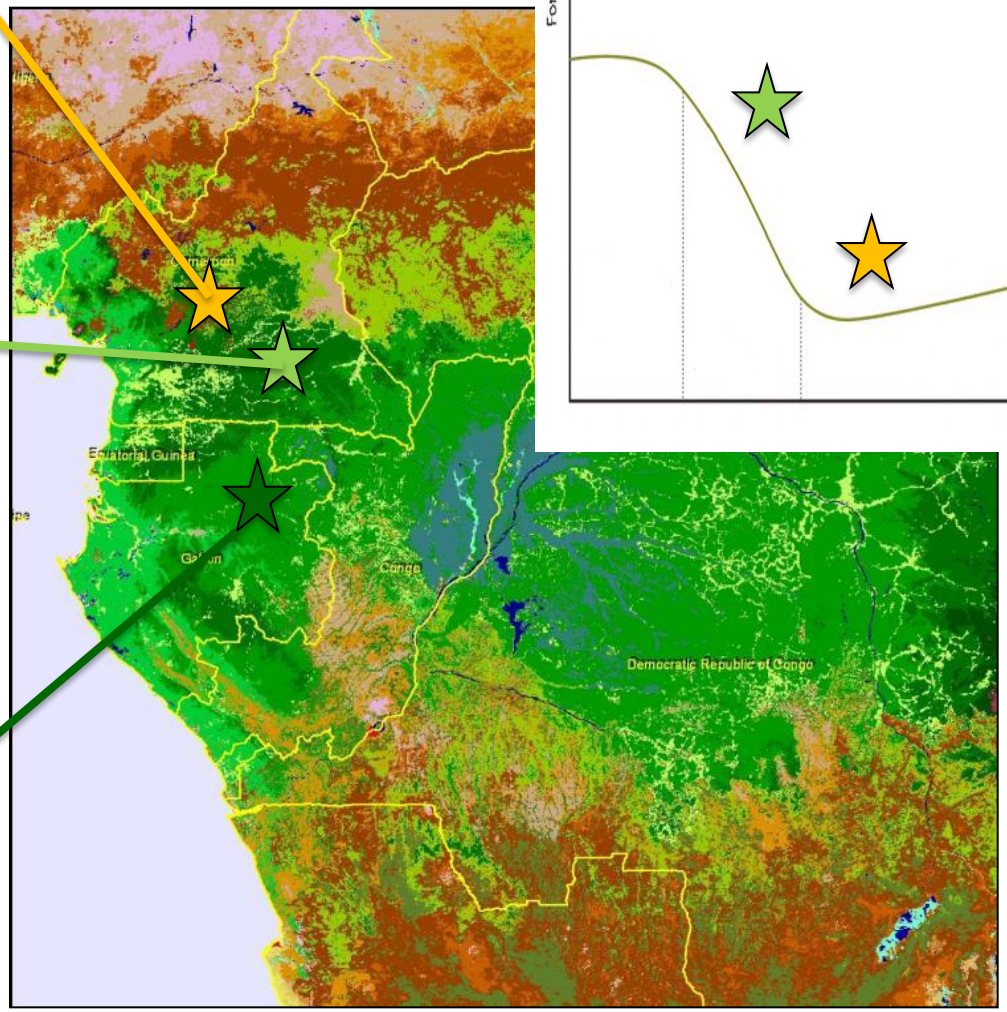
On the menu

- Method and study sites
- Family farming
- Households and changes
- Discussion
- Take home message

Method



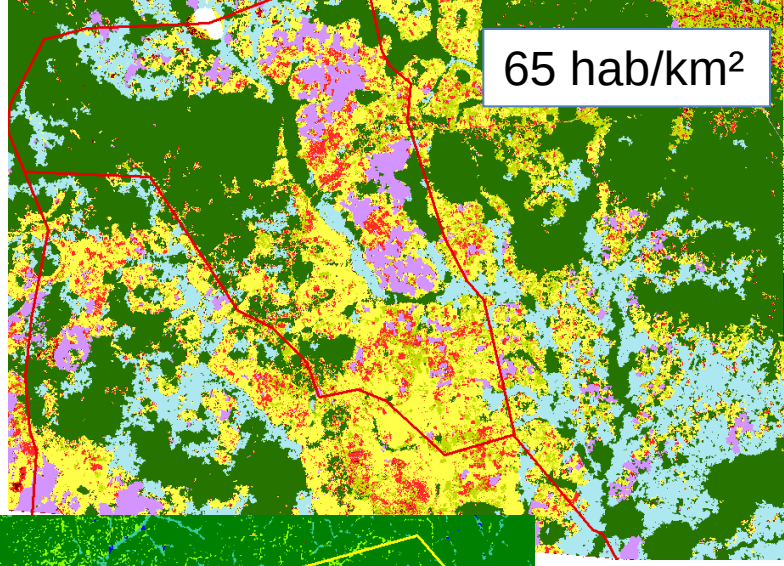
The Forest transition in the Congo Basin

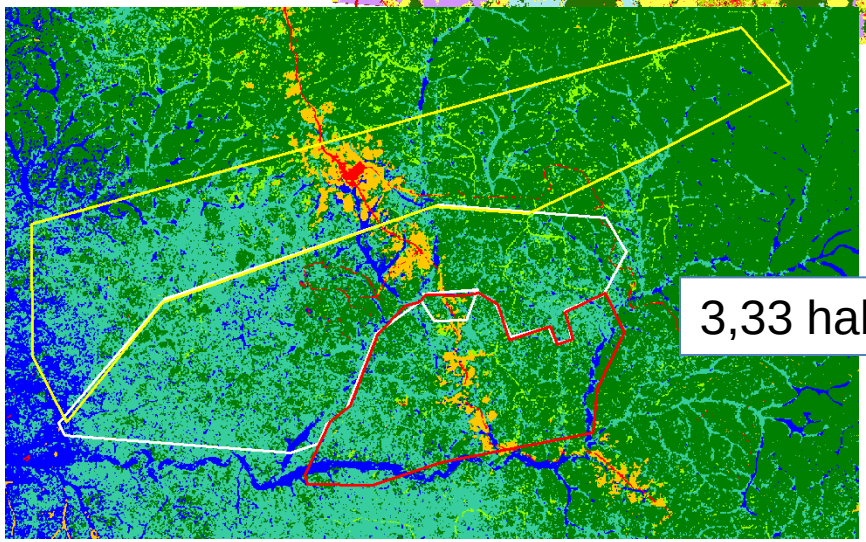


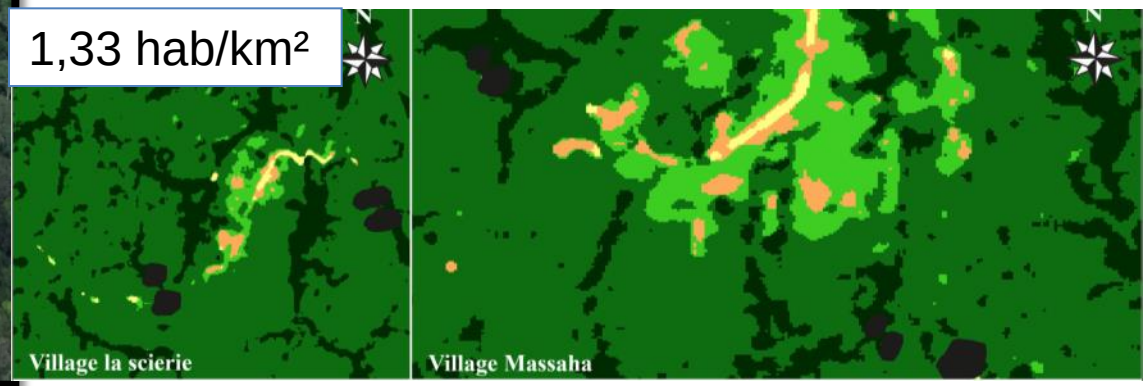

Guefigue
(Cameroon)


Mindourou,
(Cameroon)


Makokou
(Gabon)


65 hab/km²


3,33 hab/km²


1,33 hab/km²
Village la scierie
Village Massaha

Method

- Agrarian diagnosis
- Livelihoods surveys
- Census

	Technic and economic survey	Farming systems and history	Census (full population)	Production estimation
Site 1	54 HH	104 resp.	296 HH	10 plots
Site 2	25 HH	96 resp.	808 HH	10 plots
Site 3	16 HH	81 resp.	455 HH	15 plots
Total	95 HH	281 resp.	1559 HH	35 plots

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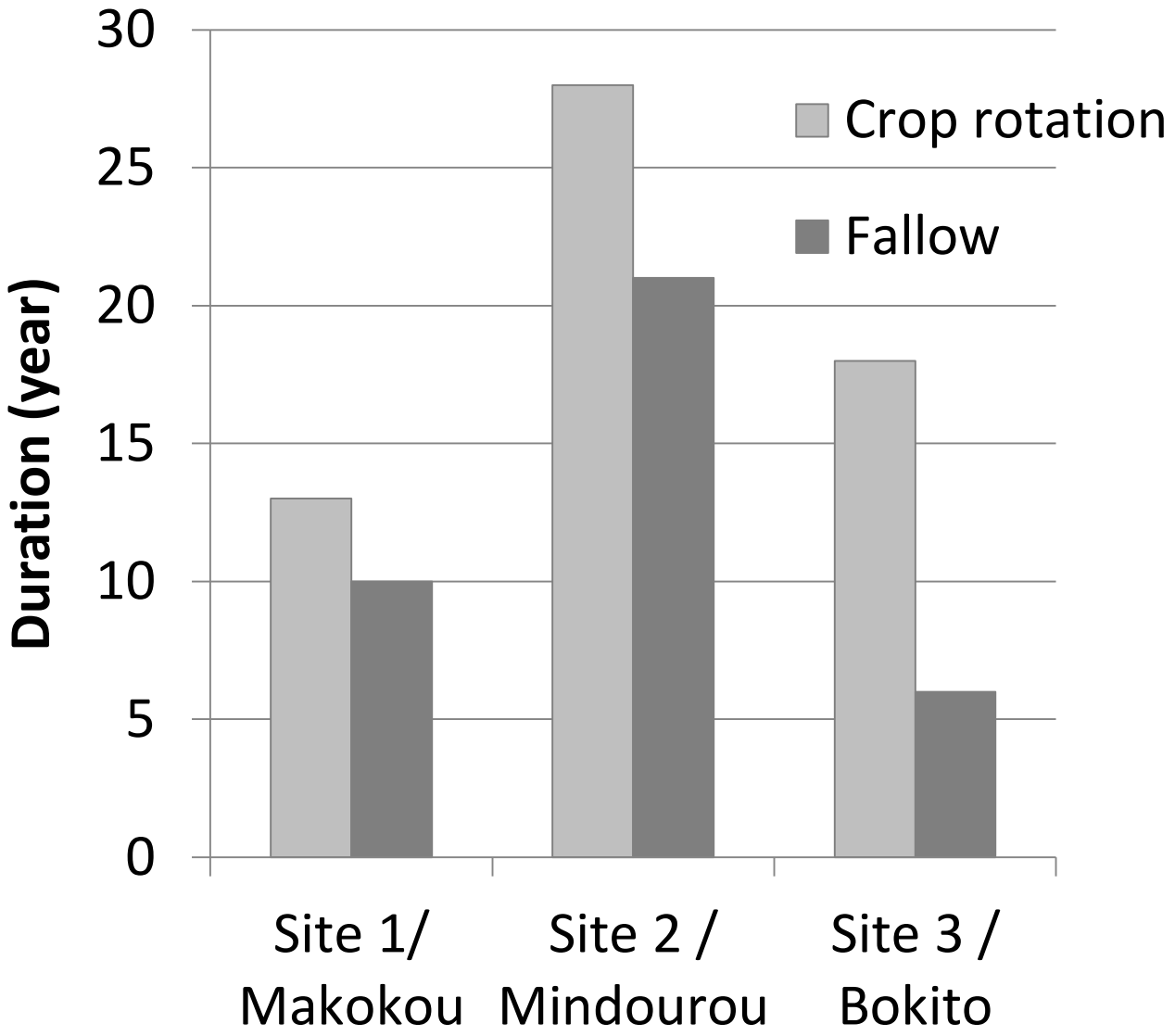
Family farming

Food crop system



Year	Site 1 / Makokou	Site 2 / Mindourou	Site 3 / Bokito
n	cucumeropsis sp., Yam, Cassava, Pineapple, Plantain	cucumeropsis sp.	Yam, cocoyam, Cassava, Pineapple, Plantain
n+1	Pineapple, Corn, Cassava, Plantain	Groundnut, Corn, Plantain, cocoyam, Cassava	Groundnut, Corn, Pineapple, Plantain
n+2	Cassava, Plantain	Cassava, cocoyam, Plantain	Sweet potato, Corn, Pineapple, Plantain
n+3	Fallow	Fallow	Groundnut, Corn, Pineapple, Plantain
n+4	Fallow	Fallow	Sweet potato, Corn, Pineapple, Plantain
n+5	Fallow	Fallow	Groundnut, Corn, ,Pineapple, Plantain
n+6	Fallow	Groundnut, Corn, Plantain, cocoyam, Cassava	Sweet potato, Corn, Pineapple, Plantain
n+7		Cassava, cocoyam, Plantain	Groundnut, Corn, Pineapple, Plantain
n+8		Fallow	Sweet potato, Corn, Pineapple, Plantain
n+9	Fallow	Fallow	Groundnut, Corn, Pineapple, Plantain
n+10	Fallow	Fallow	Sweet potato, Corn, Pineapple, Plantain
n+11	Fallow	Groundnut, Corn, Plantain, cocoyam, Cassava	Groundnut, Corn, Pineapple, Plantain
n+12	Fallow	Cassava, cocoyam, Plantain	Fallow
n+13		Fallow	Fallow
n+14		Fallow	
n+15			
n+16			Fallow
n+17		Fallow	Fallow
n+18			
n+19			
n+20		Fallow	
n+21		Fallow	
n+22		Fallow	
n+23		Fallow	
n+24		Fallow	
n+25		Fallow	
n+26		Fallow	
n+27		Fallow	

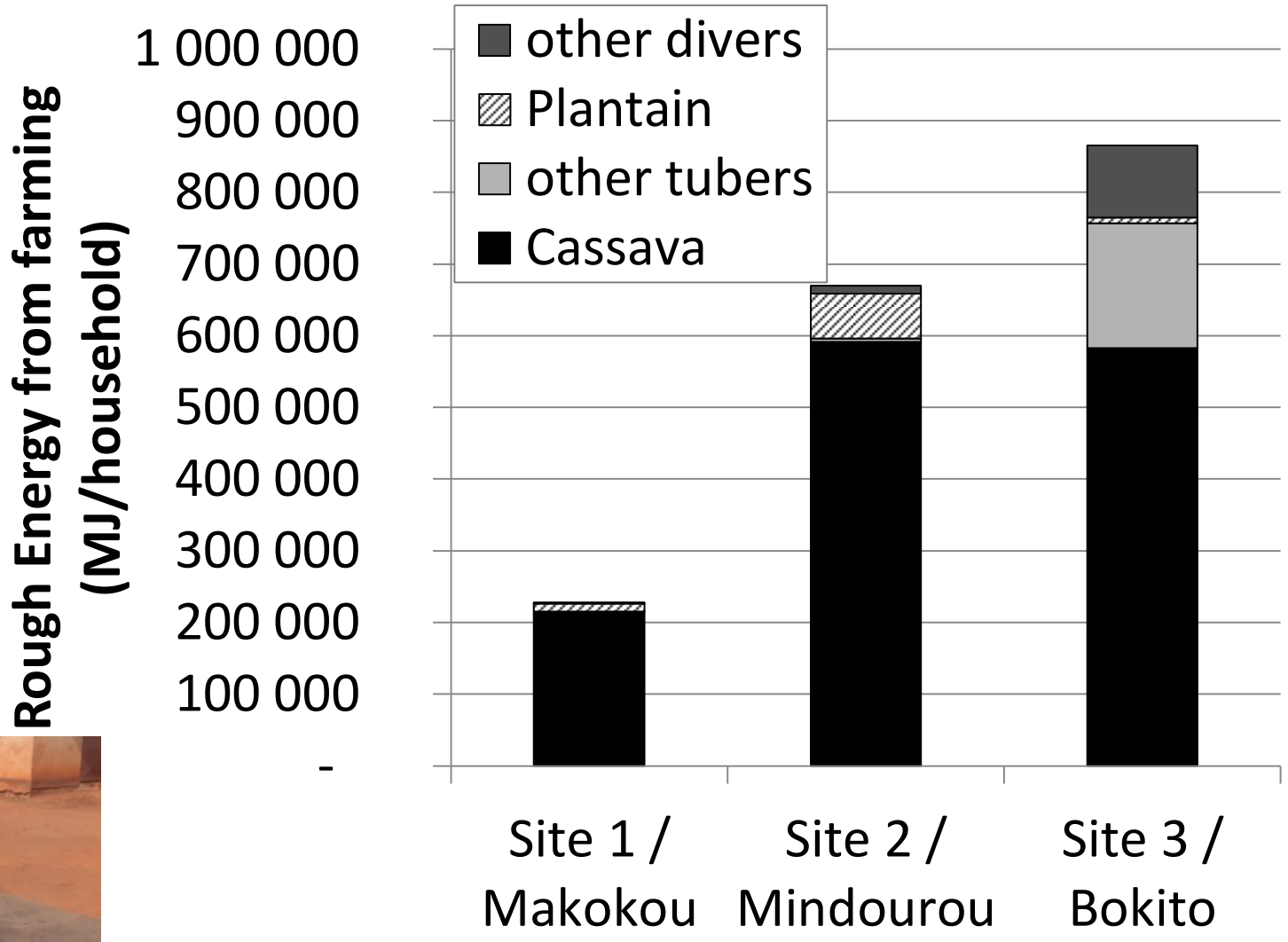
77 %

75 %

33 %

Logging = Men's activities

Nutritive value of the food crop production

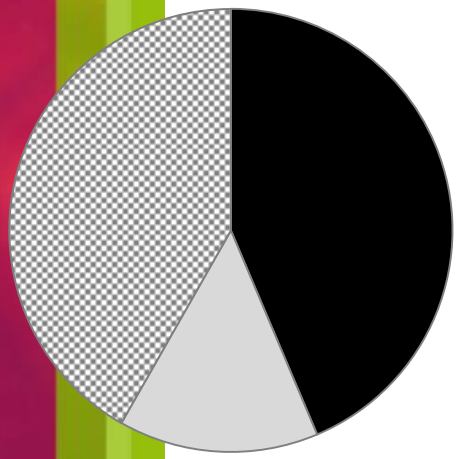


Households and changes

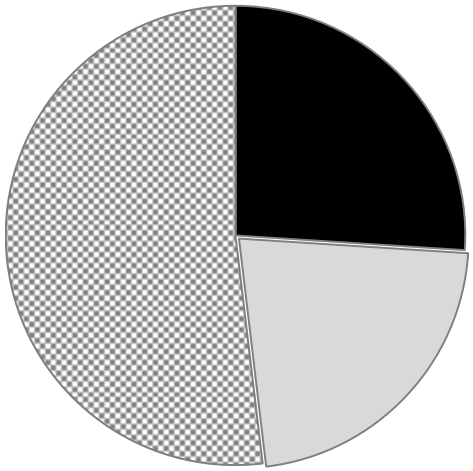
Objective of agricultural production

Main source of income

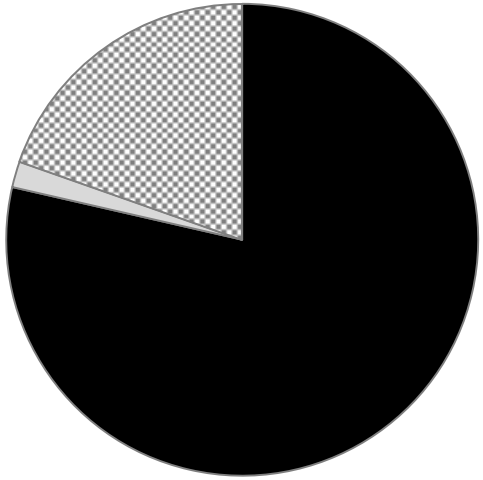
Site 1 / Makokou



Site 2 / Mindourou



Site 3 / Bokito



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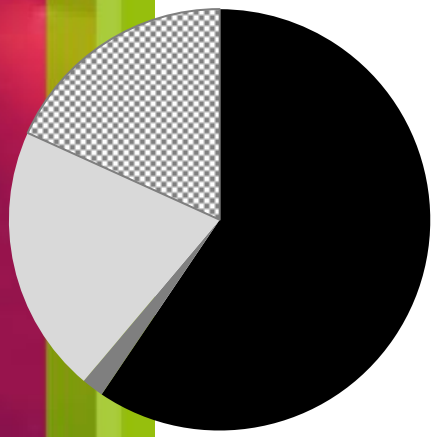
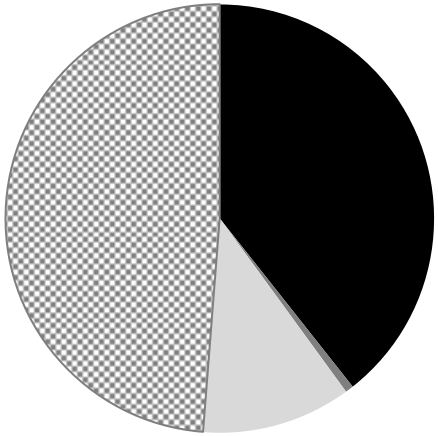
Distribution of the active population

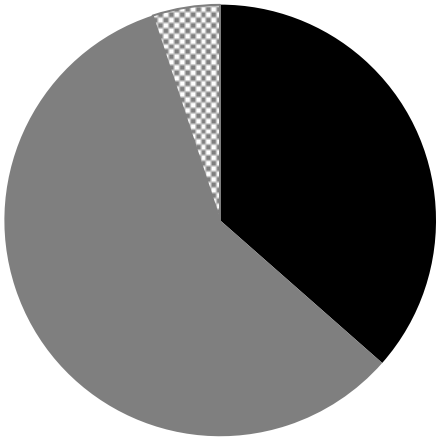
Site 1 / Makokou



Site 2 / Mindourou



Site 3 / Bokito



- food-crops
- cash-crops
- hunting, fishing, gathering
- other

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Discussion

- Dynamics at local scale coherent with forest transition theory
- From self-sufficient strategy to cash crops and jobs
- Agriculture intensification is accompanied by agriculture expansion
- Progressive adjustment of forest cover: through active planting for cash crop production
- Drivers of change are external

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Take home message

- Food crop system resilient.
- Food crop production is a safety net.
- Strategies of forest dwellers and farmers change and adapt to exogenous changes.
- Development and conservation projects should include this in their strategies.

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